

Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group (Meeting #1)
December 29, 2014 DENR Conference Room

Members:

Representative Dick Werner
Representative Spencer Hawley
Senator Bill Van Gerpen
Chuck Dieter
Chris Hesla
Norb Barrie
Larry Steffen
GFP Commissioner Gary Jensen (via phone)
GFP Commissioner Paul Dennert

GFP Staff:

Tony Leif
Tom Kirschenmann
Scott Lindgren
Arden Petersen
Scott Simpson

Welcome and Introductions

Staff and members introduced themselves. They gave a short personal background and expressed their interest in nonresident waterfowl licenses and hunting opportunity.

Review of Work Group Charter

Tony Leif discussed Charter. The purpose is to assist GFP review of allocation of nonresident waterfowl licenses. Group accepted charter. Goal would be to build some consensus on ideas and any recommended changes.

Paul Dennert asked if there would be a time for public testimony time. Tony Leif brought up the option of an email site for public input. Chuck Dieter and Norb Barrie liked the idea of a public email site. Everyone was comfortable with going with a public email site. * An email site will be set up.

Waterfowl recommendations are presented to the GFP Commission in April and finalized at the May meeting. Next meetings for work group would be the afternoon of February 2 and March 2. Goal will be to have something that members can support after March 2 meeting.

History of Nonresident Waterfowl License Allocations and Current Status

Tony Leif presented **History PowerPoint**. Discussion ensued on why the ability to increase licenses was transferred from legislature to the commission.

Tom Kirschenmann gave **License/Hunter PowerPoint**. Discussion ensued on why demand for 3-day licenses along river has decreased. Spencer Hawley asked about resident hunter distributions. *Tom Kirschenmann said he would get that information out to group. Dick Warner asked about resident hunter numbers. *Tom Kirschenmann will provide.

Changes to State Statute from House Bill 1185 (2014 legislative session)

Tony Leif discussed changes resulting from HB1185. Group discussed compromises that were made to get this legislation passed.

Proposed Alternatives for Future License Allocations from Group Members

Larry Steffen talked about changing some of the 3-day licenses that don't sell to 1-day licenses.

Norb Barrie doesn't want to see income to GFP decreased.

Chris Hesla talked about the difference between duck and goose licenses.

Bill Van Gerpen asked if there were any concerns about transferring 3-day licenses from the Missouri River Private Land unit to the Lower Missouri unit. A lengthy discussion about the Lower Missouri unit and resident hunters versus area economic development occurred.

Larry Steffen talked about the deal made for 2000 licenses to be in the Missouri River Private Land unit to create public access.

Chuck Dieter talked about changing/adding units to decrease pressure in the northeast part of the state. Chuck Dieter said he could share plan at next meeting.

Norb Barrie talked about 18 tags per waterfowl license to start with and could get more. This was suggested because of concern of wasting game if hunters went over their possession limit.

Paul Dennert asked about expanding Northeast unit to west. There was discussion about adding another unit that included counties to the south and west of the Northeast unit. Larry Steffen talked about not a new unit in but just expanding the Northeast unit west to river. Tony Leif had concern about having a unit that doesn't have ducks in a dry year.

There was a lot of discussion on expanding the size of the unit for the 3-day licenses and whether it should be on public, private or both.

Discussion on Early Fall Canada licenses to include a 3 or 5 day option during the rest of the season for Canada geese.

Dick Werner discussed the flow chart and how we could simplify it.

Discussion ensued on Lower Missouri unit to decreasing season long licenses and increasing 3-day licenses in that unit.

Discussion to keep Northeast and Lower Missouri unit numbers the same for 10 & 3 day licenses, but maybe to increase numbers outside these units.

Members encouraged GFP staff to come to next meeting with some suggestions for how we could accomplish some of the items discussed.

Suggestion was made to move future meetings to Ft. Pierre District Office for February 2 and March 2.

*denotes action item